

Historic Silver Lake

The History of Silver Lake

The Silver Lake neighborhood has always drawn its character from the 102-acre lake it surrounds, although much has changed since the early 1900's. Improved transportation routes changed this rural community into a resort town, carrying people to Silver Lake's shores for relaxation and fun.

The Roaring 20s

New modes of transportation brought Silver Lake to life! The first passenger car on the Interurban Line chugged its way between Seattle and Everett on May 2, 1910. In the Roaring 20s, carloads of people traveled the Everett-Bothell Highway (SR 527) to its shores to escape the city. Many built summer homes and small hotels were developed in this growing resort community.

Entrepreneurs opened restaurants and dance halls with much success. Bootleggers and proximity to Canada made alcohol readily available during Prohibition. The area came alive with colorful parties and dances. A Bible camp, an informal nude beach, and undeveloped areas for swimming also dotted the shores of the lake.

Silver Lake Today

Silver Lake's days as a resort area declined in the 1930s with the end of Prohibition and the construction of Highway 99. In the 1980s, local landowners obtained sewer lines for their property, making denser developments possible. Today, Silver Lake is a neighborhood where people enjoy the benefits of this freshwater lake just a short distance from several freeways.



George McKenzie, a native of Perth, Scotland, opened the Bungalow Inn in 1924. Billed as "The Daddy of them All," its Palace De Dance offered an 8,000 square foot polished maple dance floor. 600 couples could dance there at one time!



Nora Wood, a successful businesswoman from Kansas City, Kansas, and her husband opened the Wood's Hotel in 1915. Vaudeville artists from the Pantages Theatre were regular guests there.



Owned and operated by Walter E. Stubb, Silver Beach Resort offered free camping grounds and an auto park. Picnicking and swimming were popular activities at Silver Beach.



This 40-foot waterslide at Silver Beach provided hours of entertainment for young and old. Its foundation is still visible when lake water is low.